Shortage of Equipments for Armed Forces

1093. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently admitted shortage in vital equipments for soldiers during war, paucity of sophisticated equipments that could potentially win or loss a war and lack of modernisation;

(b) if so, whether Government have seriously taken any steps to strengthen its equipments availability etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) It has always been the policy of the Government to keep Armed Forces in a state of preparedness and to equip them with the latest weaponary and equipment to discharge their responsibility.

(b) and (c) Modernisation of Armed Forces is a continuous process necessitated by changing threat preceptions and advancements in technology. Continuous assessment is also made of our adverseries with a view to acquire matching modern equipments. The requirment of the Forces is constantly reviewed in Service Headquarters and regular planning—both short term and long term—is made for acquisition of weapons, ammunition and equipments.

Import of R-73 Air-to-Air Missiles

†1094. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from which air-to-air missiles 'R-73' were imported alongwith the number of these missiles and the dates on which these were imported and the expenditure incurred thereon;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that the above imported missiles have now become useless; if so, the number and value thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have fixed any accountability in the matter by conducting an enquiry in to the case; if so, the details of actions taken after fixing the accountability; and

(d) if not, the reasons for Government's callous attitude towards the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Air Hqrs have procured R-73 Missiles during 1995—99 under different contracts. Approximate cost of procurement of R-73 Missiles is Rs. 340 crores in foreign exchange. The missiles were procured from Russia. The missiles are in serviceable/operational condition except a very insignificant number which are being attended to by the vendor under warranty clause. The procurement was done under warranty clause and no problems have been faced whatsover.

Indo-Russian Defence Relations

1095. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indo-Russian protocol on defence relations between India and Russia has recently been signed when he visited Russia last month;

(b) if so, the objectives of the protocol and the details thereof; and

(c) whether the problem of international and cross-country terrorism has been adequately highlighted in the protocol and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A Protocol on the results of my official visit to the Russian Federation from June 26—29, 2000 was signed by the two sides on June 29, 2000.

(b) The Protocol focused on issued of Defence and Military Technical Cooperation between the two countries. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of the Protocol.